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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Executive Registry

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25 OCT 1974

DDI-3125-74

The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger  
Assistant to the President for  
National Security Affairs  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Henry,

Rumors of Tito's death and incipient Soviet intervention in the succession period have just eddied once again through Washington and European capitals. One of these times, of course, at least the first part of these rumors will come true, and quite possibly without the further advance warning of another bout of serious illness -- the inevitable is probably not far off.

While we may suffer this "intelligence gap" of not alerting you just ahead of Tito's long-anticipated departure, I would like to assure you that we are planning carefully for rapid, coordinated intelligence community response -- analysis and communication to key policy users as well as collection -- to the warning or event of Tito's departure and or prospects for Yugoslavia in the ensuing months. Our intelligence planning is keyed to policy planning, specifically to the Yugoslav Contingency Study revised last spring under Assistant Secretary Hartman's direction for the NSC Contingency Planning Working Group.

Soviet support of recently discovered "Cominformist" plotters in Yugoslavia indicates that even in a period of rapprochement with Yugoslavia, with accompanying benefits for USSR interests, the Soviets have been unable

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to resist meddling. Temptations in the succession period will obviously be heightened, and Soviet interference may take more serious and effective form. You will recall that the near-term implications of the "Cominformist" affair were the subject of one of the short papers prepared at Hal Sonnenfeldt's request by CIA in support of your trip.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bill

W. E. Colby

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Treasury has requested the following papers for Secretary Simon's October visit to Moscow.

1. Internal and Political Developments in USSR
2. Soviet Foreign Economics <sup>Policy</sup> Toward West
3. Soviet Hard Currency Payments
4. Grain Prospects in USSR and Eastern Europe
5. Soviet Energy Strategy

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These, says Treasury, are all updates of papers which we did for them in May 1974 (one done at the time on Soviet foreign policy does not require updating; Treasury will instead summarize memo of last week on the "Soviet Image of the US.") None of the papers should be over 2 pages, and the first one should not be over 1 page.

Simon is not leaving until 11 October but wants these papers for reading on the previous weekend. This requires delivery on Friday, 3 October. Deadline to me, therefore, will be COB 1 October.

My office will do the final typing.